

FAMILIES, EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL, AND PROMISE LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

WebEx Meeting

May 4, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Dwane Chappelle called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Attendees

Members Present: Dr. Donald Felder, Dr. Stephanie Gardener, Marques Gittens, Susan Lee, Jennifer Matter, Erin Okuno, Vivian Song Maritz, Manuela Slye, Linda Thompson-Black

Others Present: Chris Alejano (DEEL), Raka Bhattacharya (DEEL), Elisa Brown (OIR), Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Ismael Fajardo (DEEL) Brian Goodnight (CoS), Kamaria Hightower (DEEL), Kateri Joe (Guest), Mariko Lockhart (DEEL) Amelia Moore (DEEL), Colin Pierce (DEEL), Marissa Rousselle (DEEL), Alexandra Rouse (CBO) Amanda Stoddard (DEEL)

III. Agenda

Washington State Legislation and Service Impact Panel

Dr. Dwane Chappelle, DEEL Director/Moderator

JoLynn Berge, Seattle Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

Michael Meotti, Washington Study Achievement Council Executive Director

Representative Gerry Pollett, 46th Legislative District

Representative Vandana Slatter, 48th Legislative District

Review & Advise

Recommend

Vote

Advocate

Context Setting & Presentations

Director Chappelle gave a quick review of the first two panels in the LOC retreat series and introduced the remaining meetings in the 5-part retreat series.

Rep. Pollett spoke about the Mental Health Behavioral Health HB 1664, a house bill to increase funding for school nurses, social workers, and school psychologists. Rep. Pollett explained findings from research done by his students in a master's in public health program showed that providing each school with a full-time school nurse increased both health and academic outcomes for all students and especially for BIPOC and low-income students. "Evidence is overwhelming and has an incredible impact on social determinants on health and reducing educational disparity based on race and income." He highlighted the recognition and importance of school social workers and the need to do more to fund school psychologists and the importance of taking a whole child and whole family approach to supporting students.

Rep. Pollett also gave context for the history of WA Promise and highlighted Seattle Promise. His remarks concluded with a brief overview of legislation making public transportation free for youth.

Rep. Slatter presented on the work done to create a statewide fund for college students modeled after the Seattle Promise.

She highlighted some facts about post-secondary education:

- WA state is 46th out of 50 states for direct enrollment into college
- Students that are wealthy or have a financial safety net are 5 times more likely to graduate college than those who do not
- WA is 10 points below the national average in achievement of post-secondary credential
WA State legislature has set a goal for our state to reach 70% educational attainment for ages 25-44 to complete a post-secondary education; currently WA state is at 60%. Rep. Slatter expressed that we need to do better and that gaps persist in our state our states' higher education system even with our state having one of the most generous financial aid programs in the nation.

Discussion Topic 1

Moderator (Dwane Chappelle): How will HB1664 impact Seattle district services? Will students have more access as a result of the passage of this bill?

JoLynn B described HB1664 as providing state funding for a prototypical model across the state. Does provide funding for school safety workers, but family support workers did not get added to the funding. Boundaries exist around the funding Districts will get access to funding upon hiring the positions.

Discussion Topic 2

Moderator (Dwane Chappelle): Can you please describe what the Challenge program is and how it differs from the DEEL FEPP Promise program?

Michael M highlighted the role of WASAC as a convener to discuss education solutions for the state. He also noted that WA state financial aid is capped by the legislature and that it was important to transform the WA college grant to an entitlement and make it generous to support more student access for post-secondary enrollment, affordability, and completion. Michael stressed the importance to focus on how low-income students and students of various racial and ethnic categories face increased challenges that go beyond tuition—such as challenges with housing, transportation, child care, and access to mental health supports. He noted that the state can make investments that work at the community level to support service delivery by trusted messengers who are equipped to work with the populations that need support. Michael concluded by stating that the regional challenge grant secured \$6 million in a fund to support the creation of a statewide program that is based on the example set by the Seattle Promise and that WA State is convening a board to guide the work and make awards. WASC is looking forward to continued partnership with Seattle Promise and King County Promise to drive the state's model and in learning what works and where opportunities exist.

Rep. Slatter added that workforce development and apprenticeship programs are also included in the model. Legislators are looking at gaps in the workforce and coming up with solutions for how they can fill those gaps with programs like the State Challenge Program.

Discussion Topic 3

Moderator (Dwane Chappelle): How can education advocates and legislators work collaboratively to secure more funding for education?

Rep. Slatter highlighted that funding changes the strategy and that DEEL is able to be innovative because of the additional funding from the FEPP Levy. She continued by adding that advocates and legislators have to do what they can to collaborate and have a common language about what the vision and mission is as a state and how it drives the collective work. She highlighted that education after K-12 is a sticky area where students need to navigate funding and systems on their own and that is where collaboration is most needed to get students to and through post-secondary to graduation and into the workforce. She noted that apprenticeships and work-study programs are an important piece of the puzzle and solutions must include providing parents with the resources that they need to support their students.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

V. DEEL Follow-up to LOC Member Questions

No questions identified for follow-up.